

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**  
**EAST MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY**  
**INSPECTION REPORT**  
**2007**

**Facility Name:** EAST MESA JUVENILE  
DETENTION FACILITY

**Superintendent:** Craig Stover

**Address:** 446 Alta Road  
San Diego, CA 92154

**Inspection date:** 1-30-08

**Last Inspection Date:** 9-26-06

**Telephone Number:** (619) 4014906

**Fax:** (619) 401-4921

**Type of Facility:** Detention Facility

**Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:**

Honorable Susan Huguenor

**Staff Interviewed:** Craig Stover, Superintendent

**Commission Inspection Team:**

Richard Mitchell

Steve Wiley

**Juvenile Justice Commission Chair:** Steve Wiley

**Telephone Number:** (858) 694-4422

**Major Concerns and Recommendations:**

Most of the concerns noted at the last inspection have been addressed. The Staff would like a new position of "PROGRAM SPECIALIST" to be filled. Quality Programs are almost a necessity in detention facilities. They offer needed educational opportunities for this group of our society as they merge back into the general population. The classes also utilize time productively which result in fewer behavior problems.

**Comments:**

Approximately 200 wards were evacuated during the recent wildfires. The wards were relocated to the Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility. This evacuation was effected with East Mesa vehicles, and was well organized and orderly.

This facility was built for a population of 40 beds/unit. It is currently staffed and operated at 30 beds/unit.

**SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION INDICATE:**

**Number of Suicides:** 0

**Number of Deaths from other causes:** 0

**Number of Attempted Suicides:** 0

**Number of Escapes:** 0

**Number of Attempted Escapes:** 0

**Local Inspections:**

Nutritional Health  
Environmental Health  
Fire Inspection

JCC  
CSA  
Title 15, Health

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
EAST MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY  
INSPECTION REPORT  
2007**

**Date of Last Fire Drill:** Twice monthly - Each unit once a month. Facility-wide once a month.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Has the facility exceeded capacity since the last inspection?**

No.

**Does the facility house minors under Section 601 Welfare & Institutions Code? If yes, are 601s separated from 602s?**

Yes, for booking only. They are then moved.

**STAFFING**

**Staff to Child Ratio – Awake and Sleeping:**

Awake: 1 Staff:10 Wards    Sleeping: 1 Staff:28 Wards

**Communication in Language minor can understand?**

English/Spanish translation services.

**Diversity of Staff:**

Better than the County standard.

**Staff/Minor interactions:**

There is Staff/Ward interaction throughout each day/night.

**Staff Interviews – Comments:**

No other formal staff interviews held during this inspection.

**CONDITIONS OF GROUNDS**

**Lawns, playing fields, blacktop, asphalt, Other:**

Facility appears in excellent condition, well maintained. Anti-climb fencing installed on all fences.

**EXTERIOR OF BUILDINGS**

**General condition, Paint, Roof, Drains/Gutters, Other:**

Facility appears in excellent condition, well maintained.

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
EAST MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY  
INSPECTION REPORT  
2007**

**INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS**

**Walls, paint, floors, drains, plumbing fixtures, air vents, windows, etc.:**

Excellent condition as previously noted. Graffiti scratching noted on many windows, which cannot be avoided.

**Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?**

Each unit has locked room for supplies.

**Weapons Locker location:**

Weapons lockers located by main and staff entrances.

**Recreation/Sports equipment:**

Most ball sports provided.

**Are the hallways clear and doors propped open?**

No doors propped open, hallways are clear.

**Court Holding area (if present, access to drinking water and toilet?):**

Not applicable to EMJDF.

**Sleeping rooms/dormitories:**

There are 30 occupied beds per unit. Lighting over desks and elsewhere has been re-engineered to minimize vandalizing. Wards are able to climb onto sinks and communicate through the air vents.

**Beds – Type? 12" off the floor:**

Concrete slabs well off the floors with mattresses and blankets.

**Art, books, personal possessions allowed in sleeping rooms?**

Books and personal items allowed. Small pencils have been added.

**Graffiti present?**

Many windows have scratch graffiti, caused by rocks.

**Ample blankets?**

Yes, one or two per Title 15.

**Study Area:**

Two classrooms are utilized as well as desks in sleeping rooms.

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
EAST MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY  
INSPECTION REPORT  
2007**

**Adequate lighting?**

Yes. Many fixtures have been reworked to prevent vandalizing.

**Temperature:**

71 degrees.

**ORIENTATION OF MINORS**

**Are minors oriented to rules and procedures?**

Wards sign they have understood rules.

**Are rules and grievance procedures posted?**

Yes, in each unit.

**Are rules and grievance procedures understood by minors?**

Yes, during the orientation process.

**Minors Interviewed – Comments**

No, interviews held during this inspection.

**MEALS/NUTRITION**

**Kitchen – Clean; are knives and chemicals locked?**

Yes.

**Have the youths working in the kitchen been trained?**

Minimal training necessary. There is no food preparation at this facility.

**Are meals served or cafeteria style?**

Served in the dayroom on trays. Food prepared offsite by the Sheriff's Dept.

**Are minors permitted to converse during meals?**

Yes.

**Is Staff present and supervising?**

Yes.

**Is weekly menu prepared? Is it posted?**

Yes.

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
EAST MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY  
INSPECTION REPORT  
2007**

**Are servings ample, nutritious and appetizing?**

Food prepared and planned centrally by the Sheriff's Dept.

**Are weaker youths protected from having food taken from them?**

Sharing is not allowed.

**Length of time allowed for eating?**

20 minutes minimum. 30-40 average.

**PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF MINORS**

**Appearance?**

Clean and appropriate.

**Showers – Frequency, Privacy maintained, Supervised by Staff? Any assaults by other youths?**

Well supervised, individual showers, well supervised, no assaults.

**Condition of clothing – Does clothing fit? Is it appropriate to weather?**

Appropriate.

**PROGRAMS**

**Recreation – type and amount each day:**

Minimum 2 hrs/day - 1 hr morning & afternoon, more on weekends.

**Exercise – Daily schedule and amount of time each day:**

See "Recreation."

**Access to Religious Services?**

Protestant/Catholic once weekly. Others can be accommodated.

**Medical/Mental health Services:**

California Forensic Medical Group contracted by Juvenile Probation. Well equipped clinic on site. Nurses and nurse practitioners available at all times. Medical Doctors, Dentists, Psychiatrists weekly or on call.

**Volunteer Program:**

Not very active due to remote location. A painter/maintenance volunteer is active.

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
EAST MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY  
INSPECTION REPORT  
2007**

**Programming:**

Spectrum - Aggression Replacement Therapy, Criminal Conduct and Substance abuse, and Street Gang Culture.

Wellness Team - Children's Hospital

Character Counts - Probation Staff

Thinking for Change - Probation Staff

Tariq Khamisa

Youth Offender Unit (YOU) – A CYA alternative; one-year program for up to age 21.

The Federal Govt. recently took away a diversion program with Donovan inmates due to funding. Staff is recommending a new position of Program Specialist

**Sexual Harassment Classes:**

Held daily by Probation Staff and bi-monthly by Spectrum.

**Parenting Classes:**

This facility is still working toward Parenting Classes, but has not been successful.

**DISCIPLINE OF MINORS**

**Frequency and type:**

There is no change from last inspection. Markdowns - Level System: Levels one and two. Level one is Room Confinement with no participation in additional programming, but must attend school, recreation, and showers. Level twos may participate in all other programming, but must attend school, recreation and showers. There is a "time out" room in the pods that is used for one hour to calm wards. Additional time requires special permission form the Watch Commander. Room confinement is from two hours to five days depending on the transgression, which can be defiance, assault, or fighting.

**GRIEVANCES**

**Number and Type:**

Grievances average 20/wk, mostly for markdown disputes.

**TELEPHONE**

**Access:**

Phones located in each pod. Calls are one collect per week minimum. Staff is liberal in approving additional family contact.

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
EAST MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY  
INSPECTION REPORT  
2007**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Is Postage Free? Is incoming and/or outgoing mail read? Is there confidential correspondence?**

Postage is free. Mail is scanned by Staff. Checked for contraband only.

**VISITING**

**Is there adequate space, convenient times or accommodations to parent work schedule, etc. special visits? Does staff supervise visits? Is there adequate privacy?**

Visiting hours have been increased since the last inspection. They are now from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. every day. Visitors are parents and approved guardians, attorneys, law enforcement, and medical professionals.

Facilities are very good, and provide for different supervision levels, and privacy. Video conferencing is available for official use.

**Have all minors had visits? If no, give reasons:**

Visits are somewhat limited due to the remote location, lack of public transportation, and perceived problems of immigration status by some potential visitors.

**SCHOOL**

**Teachers – Number of full-time; frequency of substitutions:**

11 full-time contracted teachers; 5 Special Education teachers; 10 long-term substitute teachers.

**Number of minors attending school:**

Approximately 190.

**Number of minors in each classroom:**

15:1 ratio.

**Number of minors on independent study:**

None.

**Atmosphere of classroom:**

Sound tiles have been installed to minimize echoing. Classroom environment appears on par with other San Diego City and County schools.

**Adequate Supplies? Books, paper, computers, etc.**

School supplies are adequate and abundant. Computers are in each classroom.

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
EAST MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY  
INSPECTION REPORT  
2007**

**Activities and coursework:**

Aligned with Western Association of Schools & Colleges. Program set and supervised by S.D. County School Dist. (Court Schools).

**Are minors required to do homework?**

Some homework is assigned.

**Number of minors not attending. Reason:**

Some eligible students not attending due to disciplinary status.

**Relationship between the school and East Mesa staff.**

Excellent.

**Describe access to school, recreation, and exercise, for minors confined to their rooms.**

Level one and two status detainees attend school, recreation, and exercise.

**ACCESS TO MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Access to medical and mental health services is adequate.

/end